service may be charged by the Licensee from the Mobile Subscribers without prior approval of Authority.

7. the subscriber is free to procure terminal equipment from any source. The rental does not include the subscriber terminal.

Charges by A T & T for Long Distance Calls to US

2420. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the A T & T the US telecom giant, is charging less, as compared to the DOT, for long distance calls to the United States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that A T & T is able to charge less becuase their price reflects only the cost for placing calls between US and India;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that this amounts to playing unfair business practice; and

(d) if so, whether Government are contemplating to stop this pilferage leading to loss of revenue for the DOT on the one hand while unfair competitive advantage for the A T & T on the other?

THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) A T & T does not provide long distance calls from India to U.S.A. However, Home Direct Services have been given wherein a call can be made from India to U.S.A. and A T & T raises bill to the called party in U.S.A. Tariff to U.S. subscriber is dependent on various factors which are different in each country and are not comparable.

Preservation of Ecology

2421. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prospecting and exploitation of iron-ore, coal and other minerals have posed a grave threat to the ecology by way of endangering wild life and denuding of forests;

(b) if so, which are the main wild life sanctuaries and reserves facing the problem; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to preserve the ecology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the event of damage to wildlife habitats and obstruction to the movement of wildlife, the exploitation of ores and minerals and large scale prospecting in and around wildlife habitats can pose a potentital threat to the ecology of wildlife. Some of the main wildlife sanctuaries and reserves reported to have been affected by quarrying and exploitation of mineral wealth in the past are Sariska Tiger Reserve, Buxa Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore National Park & Tiger Reserve, and Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

(c) With a view to conserve and protect ecology, Government have issued the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated 27th January, 1994, amended on 4th May 1994. It has been *inter-alia* stipulated that mining projects for major minerals with leases more than 5 ha., as well as prospecting and exploration of major minerals in areas above 500 ha., are required to carry out the impact assessment study which *inter-alia* includes study on wildlife and forests, if applicable and no such activities shall be undertaken till it has been accorded clearance from environmetal angle by the